



2023-2024 Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: Why is the U.S. government interested in funding programs for citizens of Mozambique to study in the United States?

Answer: Individual exchange programs are one of the most effective methods of fostering mutual understanding and good relations between countries. The Global UGRAD program will provide participants with a deeper understanding of American culture and provide new globally applicable skills and expertise to help them contribute to the economic growth and development of their countries.

Question: What expenses are covered by the program?

Answer: The Global UGRAD provides for the following: J-1 visa support; round-trip travel from the participant's home city to his/her host institution in the United States; tuition and mandatory university fees; a health benefits plan; room and board (housing and meals); a monthly allowance for living expenses; and a modest allowance for basic provisions upon arrival in the United States.

Question: Do I need to be a student to apply?

Answer: Yes. You must be a current, full-time undergraduate student in good academic standing in your first, second, or third year of bachelor's degree (*Licenciatura*) study in Mozambique at the time of application.

Question: What is the TOEFL and what is the IELTS?

Answer: TOEFL is the Test of English as a Foreign Language. IELTS is the International English Language Testing System. Both are exams given to non-native speakers of English to evaluate their English speaking, writing, reading, and listening comprehension. American universities require either the TOEFL or IELTS exam of applicants from non English-speaking countries. In Mozambique, the internet-based TOEFL exam is offered at the U.S. Embassy in Maputo. The IELTS is offered at the British Council in Maputo. Visit www.ets.org/toefl and www.ielts.org for more information on each.

Question: Do I need to take the TOEFL or IELTS to apply for this program?

Answer: No. Only nominees are required to take the TOEFL, and testing will be provided for them free of charge. For further consideration, U.S. Embassy nominees must achieve a TOEFL score of 500 (paper-based test) or 61 (internet-based test), or be likely to achieve this score after limited short-term intensive English language training.

Question: Is there an age limit for participation?

Answer: Yes. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and no more than 25 years old by August 2023.

Question: Can I pursue my field of study through this program?

Answer: Yes. All academic fields of study are eligible for The Global UGRAD. Students should identify their fields of study on their application. Students will be required to enroll in at least two courses in their major and at least one course in a U.S. Studies field, such as U.S. history, literature, art, or government. The Global UGRAD participants will also be required to perform a minimum of 20 hours of community service at local organizations to expose them to the principles of community service and social responsibility in the United States. Students may not change their intended field of study after the application process.

Question: If I am selected, which U.S. college/university will I attend? Can I choose?

Answer: No. Participants cannot choose their host institution placement. Each participant is assigned a placement at an accredited institution in the United States based on academic fit.

Question: Can I apply for the UGRAD Program if I have already been in the United States as a participant on a U.S. Government-sponsored program like YES or SUSI?

Answer: Yes. However, applicants who have participated in a U.S. Government-sponsored exchange visitor program for a period of more than six weeks must fulfill the two-year home residency requirement before they apply for The Global UGRAD. Further, applicants with little or no international experience will be given preference for the The Global UGRAD Program.

Question: What is the selection process and what are the main selection criteria?

Answer: The Global UGRAD is conducted as a merit-based open competition. After the deadline, all eligible applications will be reviewed by a panel of academic and/or exchange specialists. In January, selected applicants will be interviewed in person or telephonically by a selection committee composed of U.S. Embassy representatives and alumni of U.S. government exchange programs. Individuals selected from this group will take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in February/March 2023 (test fees will be paid by the U.S. Embassy). We will select nominees based on their written applications, interviews, and performance on the TOEFL exam. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the United States Department of State will review all nominees from around the world and make a final selection of participants. All applicants will be notified of their status by April 2023. Applicants will be evaluated based on:

- Academic excellence;
- Commitment to community service and civic engagement
- Demonstrated leadership potential
- Proficiency in written and spoken English;
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Interest in mutual understanding between Mozambique and the United States

Preference will be given to students that represent disadvantaged and underrepresented communities.

Question: When are the results of the competition announced, and when does the program begin?

Answer: All applicants will be notified of their status by March 2023. Due to the anticipated volume of applications received, we will not forward explanations to applicants not selected for the program. Participants should expect to depart for their U.S. host institutions in August 2023 (if selected for the English training program) or January 2024.

Question: What does “non-degree program” mean?

Answer: The Global UGRAD participants will enroll in full-time undergraduate course work at their host institutions but will not receive academic degrees upon completion of the program. Course work will include but not be limited to: at least one American studies course; one or two classes in the participant’s specific field of study; and instruction on topics including academic research and writing, critical thinking, time management, note-taking, and studying for and taking tests.

Question: Will my credits transfer back to my home institution in Mozambique?

Answer: Participants must discuss with their home institution whether or not the credits they accumulate during the The Global UGRAD program are transferable.

Question: Can I transfer to an American college or university after I complete the UGRAD program?

Answer: No. Participants must return to their home countries upon completion of The Global UGRAD and may not stay after the program to continue degree study in the U.S. Transfers and extensions will not be permitted. Successful The Global UGRAD participants are also subject to a two-year home residency requirement: after completion of the The Global UGRAD Program, they may not become permanent residents in the U.S., change status in the U.S., or get work or family-based visa status until they have returned and resided in their country for at least two years. Please note that U.S. visas for tourism or study in the U.S. are not restricted.